

STATEMENT BY DR. NGAI XUAN NGUYEN, VICE CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIETNAM—SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY DAVID KRAMER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR—MAY 16, 2008

On May 29, 2008, you will lead a U.S. delegation to Hanoi to participate in a dialogue on U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights.

As Vice Chairman of the Democratic Party of Vietnam, our Mission is to bring improved democracy, human rights and religious freedom to the people of Vietnam.

Even though Vietnam's economy has undergone dramatic growth in recent years, Hanoi continues its oppression of human rights and religious freedom, just as it has been doing for decades. An ongoing U.S.-Vietnam dialogue can expand understanding between our two countries and peoples while consolidating human rights gains that have been won. However, actions speak louder than words.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you discuss the following major issues with the Vietnamese government during your meetings in Hanoi, May 29:

1. All political and religious prisoners who are still being jailed in Vietnam must be set free, unconditionally. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher placed this list of 85 people in the Congressional Record in 2007, and a copy is available. Ten new activists, list attached, have been recently retained and should be added to this list, including Bui Thanh, a lawyer who has recently been sent to a mental institution. All 95 prisoners should be released, immediately.

2. Condemn the Vietnamese government for arresting and interrogating for more than six hours, Dr. Nguyen Thi An Nhan, and then deporting her on February 15, 2008. Dr. Nhan is a graduate of Harvard University Medical School and is currently a heart surgeon specialist at Stanford University. Her only "crime" was that she is a member of the Democratic Party of Vietnam and was in Hanoi to attend the funeral of Professor Hoang Minh Chinh on February 16, the Founder and Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Vietnam.

3. Unless major changes and improvements are made immediately, the U.S. State Department will recommend that Vietnam be redesignated a "country of particular concern" for its lack of democracy, human rights and religious freedom. Once Vietnam was removed from the CPC list and accepted into the World Trade Organization, human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam significantly deteriorated, as reported by Human Rights Watch on May 8, 2008. Several leaders of the UBCV (Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam) have been harassed and their pagodas destroyed in Lam Dong, Hue and Quant Tri in 2008. Many Christian leaders have been imprisoned and a major Montagnard Christian demonstration led by Reverend Nguyen Cong Chinh in April 2008 in Gia Lai and Daklak was oppressed by the Vietnam government with dozens of protestors beaten and arrested. Reverend Le Ngoc Thuong, from New Orleans, was arrested and deported to the U.S. while visiting Vietnam in April 2008. Major conflicts between the Vietnam government and Roman Catholic churches have erupted after the Vietnam government stole their land. These are just a few of the recent actions in the last several months.

4. If there is not an improvement in human rights, the U.S. Department of State will recommend that H.R. 3096, The Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, be passed in the United States Senate. H.R. 3096, which passed the House on September 18, 2007, condemns the ongoing human rights abuses in

Vietnam, and prohibits increased U.S. non-humanitarian assistance to the Government of Vietnam unless there is verifiable evidence that the Vietnamese government has made substantial progress towards the release of its political and religious prisoners. In addition, this legislation requires that the Vietnam government respect the rights to freedom of religion, freedom of press and returns all confiscated properties.

Again, we in the Democratic Party of Vietnam thank you for your continued efforts to bring about real change in Vietnam. However, talk is cheap, and it is time to see significant actions and results from the government of Vietnam.

#### HONORING CONSTANCE RAU

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to Constance Rau as she retires from the Flint Community Schools. A celebration is planned for May 22 to recognize her work and contributions to Flint area youth.

Connie Rau's work with the community began long before Flint Community Schools employed her. From 1975 to 1985 she was a senior therapist with the substance abuse program at Flint Osteopathic Hospital. She became a program manager at Insight Outpatient Chemical Dependency Clinic and then became the director of Children and Adolescent Services with the Genesee County Commission on Substance Abuse Services. It was during this time that Connie also started to write a column in the Flint Journal entitled "Considering Kids" and she was an instructor at Mott Community College. She also was an intern field supervisor for several area universities.

As a member of the Flint Community Schools Youth Projects staff, Connie has had tremendous impact on the children of Flint. She was instrumental in organizing several programs that directly benefited the most vulnerable children in the Flint school system. She coordinates two intervention programs for the Genesee County Family Court, the Youth Projects Diversion and the Youth Projects Diversion—Attendance Court. She established the "Roast and Toast" fundraiser for student activities. She established the "Shoes that Fit" Flint Chapter, the Language Exchange program, and the Teen Female Expo. Working with Quota International of Flint, Connie launched the Cops and Kids program.

Recognized by the Woodrow Stanley Foundation for her work with children, Connie is a co-founder of the Mayor's Committee for National Youth Service Day recognizing the thousands of Community service hours the youth of Flint have contributed to improving the quality of life in their hometown.

In addition to her work with children, Connie is active in Peace Lutheran Church, at various times she has held the positions of Director of Education, Director of Finance, and currently is Director of Stewardship. She is on the Board of Directors for the Intake, Assessment and Referral Center and she is a mentor in the Big Brother, Big Sisters Lunch Buddies program.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the

work of Constance Rau as she retires from the Flint Community Schools. She has spent her life devoted to children and has enriched their lives through her work. All will miss her insight, innovative spirit and enthusiasm for her work and community. However, we know that she will always be meaningfully involved.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. The fiscal year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tennessee National Guard.

Address: 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN.

Description of Request: \$10,372,000 for the construction of a new Army National Guard Readiness Center to replace the inadequate Readiness Center that was constructed in 1954. The existing facility has numerous health and safety issues as well as significant electrical code issues, and ADA violations. The new facility will house the 20th Troop Command, and the Company Headquarters of the 1175th Transportation Company. This project is in the Army National Guard's Fiscal Year 2012 Future Year Defense Plan.

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Y-12 National Security Complex.

Address: Oak Ridge, TN.

Description of Request: \$5,000,000 in the Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities Program.

Operations and Facilities Account for basic operational needs at the Y-12 National Security Complex, a Department of Energy nuclear weapons manufacturing plant. Its vast facilities and infrastructure require routine maintenance as Y-12 performs its national defense and security missions.

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Y-12 National Security Complex.

Address: Oak Ridge, TN.

Description of Request: \$3,000,000 in the Safety and Security Program to continue to improve the physical security at the Y-12 National Security Complex, a Department of Energy nuclear weapons manufacturing plant. Post 9-11, federal standards were created to achieve maximum safety at national security